

STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

FORECAST OF CEREAL AND HAY HARVEST, SEASON 1927-28.

I. ACREAGE CULTIVATED.

Grand Totals - Based on returns received direct from farmers the areas sown for Grain, Hay and Fodder are estimated to have been:- WHEAT 3,166,000 acres, increase 163,000 acres. BARLEY 231,000 acres, decrease 38,000 acres. OATS 475,000 acres, increase 29,000 acres. Grand Total 3,873,000 acres for Wheat, Barley and Oats, increase 154,000 acres. The expectation from this increased tillage, however, were heavily discounted as a result of low seasonal rains as will be seen by the next paragraph.

II. RAINFALL.

The registered fall at the Adelaide Observatory will serve to indicate the character of the season. For the period (April to November) the fall was 13.29 inches being 6.45 inches less than 1926 and 4.46 inches less than the average.

III. ESTIMATED YIELDS.

WHEAT - 20,700,000 (35,558,711) Bushels. Average 7.23 (12.84) Bushels. BARLEY 3,050,000 (4,630,044) Bushels. Average 14.32 (18.05) Bushels. OATS 1,260,000 (1,713,377) Bushels. Average 7.78 (11.26) Bushels. HAY - Wheaten 316,000 Tons, Oaten 193,000 Tons; Total 509,000 (585,001) tons averaging .90 (1.20) tons per acre.

NOTE. All averages are based on areas inclusive of failures.

IV. DIVISIONAL SUMMARIES.

| Division. | W H E A T . | | Average Bush. per acre. | Mean 1922-3. to 1926-7 | Wheaten and Oaten Hay. | |
|---------------|-------------|------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---------|
| | Acres. | Bushels. | | | Acres. | Tons. |
| Central | 488,000 | 5,475,000 | 11.22 | 14.58 | 185,000 | 256,000 |
| Lower North | 731,000 | 7,625,000 | 10.43 | 16.63 | 130,000 | 111,000 |
| Upper North | 253,000 | 1,185,000 | 4.68 | 12.24 | 22,000 | 15,000 |
| South Eastern | 33,000 | 510,000 | 15.45 | 14.44 | 27,500 | 31,000 |
| Western | 690,000 | 4,125,000 | 5.98 | 8.35 | 85,000 | 48,000 |
| Murray Mallee | 667,000 | 1,780,000 | 2.67 | 9.18 | 118,500 | 48,000 |
| Grand Total | 2,862,000 | 20,700,000 | 7.23 | 12.54 | 568,000 | 509,000 |
| Actual 1926-7 | 2,768,403 | 33,558,711 | 12.84 | - | 486,537 | 585,001 |
| Increase | 93,597 | 14,858,711 | 5.61 | - | 81,443 | 76,001 |

As there is much difficulty in accurately measuring the extent of failed areas it is possible that the returns of actual reaspings may moderately affect the forecast, but, it is not anticipated that the increase or decrease will be substantial.

V. EXPORTABLE SURPLUS.

On a crop of 20,700,000 bushels there would be an exportable surplus of 14,500,000 bushels compared with 29,200,000 bushels exported in the form of wheat and flour last season.

VI. METROPOLITAN PRICES.

The averages per bushel in the first two weeks of December were as follows:- Wheat 5s. 3d. (5s.4½d.), Barley 4s.4½d. (3s.4d.), Oats 3s.7½d. (2s.5d.). Hay per ton £4 (£3 2s. 6d.).

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Statistical Office,
Adelaide.

16th December, 1927.

Government Statist.